

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

22nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2003

HINCHEY TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUM ON MEDICARE; ASSAILS ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO UNDERCUT PROGRAM

ITHACA - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) on Monday will hold a public forum to discuss Medicare and proposed changes to the program. Hinchey has been fighting to stop proposals by the Bush Administration and the Republican leadership in Congress.

"The legislation being pushed in Congress now has implications far beyond the creation of a prescription drug benefit for senior citizens," said Hinchey. "It represents a fundamental shift in the Medicare program. Not only does it shift a larger share of health care costs to senior citizens, it also changes Medicare from a public program that is universally available to all seniors to a private program that offers different benefits depending on where you live, how much money you have and how healthy you are."

Hinchey opposes the Republican prescription drug bill and is a cosponsor of legislation that would offer a comprehensive, guaranteed and affordable prescription drug benefit to any senior who wants to enroll.

Hinchey also made note of the news this week that the Bush Administration expects to cut Medicare payments to doctors by 4.2 percent next year, saying, "Giving doctors lower payments will cause them to drop more Medicare patients. This is another step in the administration's plan to undercut Medicare, one of the most successful federal programs in history. I want to make sure my constituents know about this and hear what they have to say."

Monday, August 18

1:30 pm

Public Forum
Main Auditorium
Kendal at Ithaca
2230 North Triphammer Road
Ithaca